

Status of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the frame and ~~having extending between the upper and lower ends edges in a directional relationship generally opposite thereto so as to define;~~
the frame including a mounting for a net defining a ball-receiving portion; and
the lower ends of the ball guide fingers each having a sloped, each including a
substantially rounded outer surface protruding from the interior face so as to define a shoulder
facing the ball-receiving portion.
2. (Previously presented) The head of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame and include an outer surface which slopes outwardly as the fingers extend between the upper and lower edges of the frame.
3. (Canceled) The head of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers terminate in a shoulder protruding unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame.
4. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 further comprising a separate insert made of a material different than the material comprising the frame and adapted to be secured to the interior face of the frame, the fingers protruding unitarily outwardly from the insert.
5. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 4 wherein the frame includes a ball stop back wall and opposed side walls unitary therewith and defining an elongate interior recess, the insert being adhesively secured in the interior recess defined therein.
6. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 4 wherein the insert comprises spaced-apart top and bottom elongate trusses and the fingers extend along the trusses in a spaced-apart and generally transverse relationship to the top and bottom trusses.

7. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes an exterior face and the head further comprises a separate sleeved insert made of a material different than the material comprising the frame and adapted to cover the top edge of the frame and the interior and exterior faces thereof, the fingers protruding unitarily outwardly from an exterior face of the insert.

8. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 7 wherein the frame includes a ball stop back wall and opposed side walls, the sleeved insert comprising an elongate sheet adapted to be secured to the interior face of the ball stop back wall and side walls respectively and a pair of sleeves unitary therewith and adapted to cover the top edge and the exterior face of the side walls respectively.

9. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame is made of a first material and further comprising an overlay made of a second material and molded over the interior face of the back stop wall and the exterior and interior faces of the respective side walls, the fingers being unitary with and protruding outwardly from the overlay in the region of the interior face of the back wall and side walls respectively.

10. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and the fingers are spaced along the interior face of the frame in the region of the back stop wall.

11. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and opposed side walls and the fingers are spaced along the interior frame between the back wall and the end of the respective side walls.

12. (Withdrawn) A lacrosse stick head comprising:
a frame made of a first material and including a handle base, a back stop wall unitary with the handle base and a pair of spaced-apart side walls unitary with and extending outwardly from opposed ends of the back stop wall, the back stop wall including top and bottom edges and an interior face and each of the side walls including interior and exterior faces, an exterior face and top and bottom edges; and
an elongate insert made of a second material and adapted to cover at least a portion of the

interior face of the back stop wall and side walls and defining a plurality of outwardly protruding spaced-apart fingers extending between, and in a generally opposed directional relationship to, the top and bottom edges of the back stop wall and side walls respectively.

13. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the fingers slope outwardly as the fingers extends from the top edge to the bottom edge of the back stop wall and side walls respectively, each of the fingers further defining a lower shoulder.

14. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert includes upper and lower elongate trusses and the fingers extend in a generally spaced-apart and transverse relationship between the trusses.

15. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 14 wherein the insert includes a center portion and opposed wing portions and the fingers vary in length between the center and wing portions.

16. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert is adapted to be adhesively secured to the interior face of the back stop wall and side walls respectively.

17. (Withdrawn) The lacrosse stick head of claim 12 wherein the insert includes a pair of sleeves adapted to cover at least a portion of the top edge and exterior face of the side walls respectively.

18. (Currently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket at one end and a scoop at an opposite end[,];
the frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween[,];
the frame including a mounting for a net defining a ball-receiving portion;
the head further comprising a plurality of outwardly protruding fingers spaced along the interior face of the frame and extending between the upper and lower edges of the frame in a generally opposed directional relationship thereto; and

each of the fingers having a substantially rounded, outer sloped surface for directing a lacrosse ball into the pocket and a lower shoulder facing the ball-receiving portion for holding the ball in the pocket and directing the ball along the net between the pocket and the scoop.

19. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 18 wherein the frame is made of a first material and further comprising an elongate insert made of a second material and adapted to be adhesively secured to the interior face of the frame, the fingers being unitary with and protruding outwardly from the insert.

20. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 19 wherein the insert comprises upper and lower trusses and the fingers extend unitarily generally transversely between the upper and lower trusses in spaced-apart and generally parallel relationship.

21. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 19 wherein the insert includes a pair of sleeves adapted to surround at least a portion of the upper edge of the frame.

22. (Withdrawn) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are unitary with and protrude outwardly from the outer surface of an overlay molded directly to at least the interior face of the frame.

23. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame.

24. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the length of the fingers vary along the interior face of the frame.

25. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the frame includes a back wall at one end, a scoop wall at the other end and a pair of side walls therebetween, the fingers extending along the back wall and side walls respectively and the length of the fingers increasing progressively between the back wall and respective side walls and then decreasing progressively along each of

the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

26. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the shoulder on each of the fingers is sloped and the slope of the shoulders of successive fingers decreases progressively between the back wall and the respective side walls and then increases progressively along the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

27. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

28. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

29. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

30. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

31. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

32. (Currently amended) The head of claim 1 wherein ~~the fingers have upper and lower ends, the upper ends of the ball guide fingers are being~~ generally flush with the interior face ~~and the lower ends protruding from the interior face.~~

33. (Previously added) The head of claim 32 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

34. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

35. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers have upper and lower ends, the upper ends being generally flush with the interior face and the lower ends protruding from the interior face.

36. (Previously added) The head of claim 35 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

37. (Currently amended) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length ~~vary with regard to the amount of slope.~~

38. (Currently amended) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length ~~vary with regard to the amount of slope.~~

39. (Newly Added) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net that defines a ball-receiving portion;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and
the fingers having outer surfaces facing away from the interior face and defining progressively increasing angles with respect to the interior face.

40. (Newly Added) The head of claim 39 wherein the angle of the fingers increase from a minimum at the back wall to a maximum at the sidewalls.

41. (Newly Added) The head of claim 39 wherein the outer surfaces of the fingers are generally part conical in shape.

42. (Newly Added) The head of claim 41 wherein the transverse cross sectional areas of the fingers increase from the top edge to the bottom edge.

43. (Newly Added) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net that defines a ball-receiving portion;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and
the fingers having outer surfaces facing away from the interior face and end surfaces extending generally perpendicular to the outer surfaces, facing the net.

44. (Newly Added) The head of claim 43 wherein the end surfaces have a generally semicircular shape.

45. (Newly Added) The head of claim 43 wherein the end surfaces lie along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the outer curve of a lacrosse ball.

46. (Newly Added) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net defining a ball-receiving portion;

a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and

the fingers having longitudinal lengths which vary from one finger to another.

47. (Newly Added) The head of claim 46 wherein the sidewalls define openings and the fingers extend across the openings.